

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /099 W

-----044361 210839Z /11

R 191509Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8508

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, NI, CU

SUBJECT: THE CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA: A NIGERIAN ASSESSMENT

1. MAY 16 NEW NIGERIAN CARRIES A COMMENTARY ARTICLE ENTITLED "THE CUBAN PRESENCE IN AFRICA" EXCERPTS CONTAINED IN USICA/LAGOS 161405Z MAY 78). THE ARTICLE ASKS "ON WHAT BASIS" THE UNITED STATE WITH "5000,000 TROOPS IN 445 MILITARY BASES ON THE SOIL OF SOVEREIGN NATIONS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD" CAN "LECTURE AFRICAN NATIONS ON THE "DANGERS" OF THE CUBAN PRESENCE IN AFRICA?" THE ARTICLE POINTS TO CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY TRADITION, PARTICULARLY ITS CONCERN FOR BLACK PEOPLE, AND SAYS THAT "THE FUSION OF THE HISTORICAL DESTINIES OF THE LIBERATED MASSES OF AFRICA IS A DIRECT THREAT TO THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE WESTERN IMPERIALISM IT LEADS." THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH THE QUOTATION FROM MURTALA MUHAMMED'S JANUARY 11, 1976 OAU SPEECH THAT "AFRICA HAS COME OF AGE" AND CAN DEFINE ITS OWN INTERESTS WITHOUT SIDELINE COACHING FROM THE WEST.

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2. COMMENT: REGARDLESS OF THE AUTHORSHIP AND DESPITE THE IDEOLOGICAL JARGON, THE ARTICLE IS IN OUR VIEW ILLUSTRATIVE OF AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA WHICH IS WIDELY HELD BY NIGERIANS. IN THIS ASSESSMENT, THE CUBANS IN GENERAL ARE PLAYING A POSITIVE AND PROGRESSIVE ROLE IN

ANGOLA AND IN MANY WAYS HAVE STEPPED INTO THE  
BREACH TO HELP AFRICANS TO HELP THEMSELVES. THIS  
ATTITUDE IS ALSO REFLECTED IN A MAY 18 NIGERIAN HERALD  
EDITORIAL ON THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE WHICH SAYS  
THAT "THE DANGEROUS AND UNACCEPTABLE MILITARY  
INTERFERENCE COMES FROM THE NATO COUNTRIES--  
AND NOT THE CUBANS WHO ARE ON AFRICAN SOIL AT THE EXPLICIT  
REQUEST OF LEGITIMATE  
GOVERNMENTS OF THE COUNTRIES THEY ARE NOW HELPING  
TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR INDEPENDENCE."  
EASUM

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
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